

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /060 W
----- 074837

P R 181352Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5205

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

DEA WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2643

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: QUARTERLY (JANUARY-MARCH) NARCOTICS REPORT - ECUADOR

REF: QUITO 0720; QUITO 6868 OF OCTOBER 17, 1974

1. SUMMARY: THE QUARTER WAS SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHANGES WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE AND IN THE ECUADOREAN NATIONAL POLICE. IT BODE WELL FOR MORE EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS. MISSION NARCOTICS ACTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE APPROPRIATE GOE AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED ON THE 1975 POLICE PROJECT AGREEMENT BUT FAILURE OF WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED ALLOTMENT HAS DELAYED SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE USAID MISSION DIRECTOR AND THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE. END SUMMARY.

2. ABUSE - NO CHANGE FROM REFERENCED REPORTS.

3. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING - EFFORTS TO LOCATE OPIUM

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POPPY PLANTATIONS FOLLOWING THE ARREST BY NATIONAL

POLICE OF 4 PERSONS FOUND WITH 2 POUNDS OF OPIUM AND A SMALL BOTTLE OF LIQUID OPIUM DERIVATIVE WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. THIS CAPTURE AND CONFISCATION RESULTED FROM A SUCCESSFUL UNDERCOVER OPERATION MOUNTED BY THE ECUADOREAN PLICE. IT IS THE ONLY SUCCESS OF ITS KIND IN RECENT TIMES AND EFFORTS TO BUY OPIUM HAVE NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL.

4. TRAFFICKING TRENDS - NO CHANGE FROM REFERENCED REPORTS.

5. ENFORCEMENT - TEN PROVINCIAL NARCOTICS UNITS REPORTED THE SEIZURE OF 42 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE PASTE, 27 KILOGRAMS OF MARIJUANA AND THE DISCOVERY AND DISMANTLING OF ONE LABORATORY DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD (DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY STATISTICS). 149 ARRESTS FOR TRAFFICKING AND 56 ARRESTS FOR POSSESSION WERE MADE. THE NEW ORGANIC LAW FOR THE ECUADOREAN NATIONAL POLICE WAS APPROVED AND PUBLISHED ON MARCH 9, 1975 (SEE EMBASSY'S A-11 OF MARCH 24). THE NEW LAW PROVIDES FOR A NATIONAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIRECTORATE, A PART OF WHICH WILL BE THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT WITH BRANCHES IN EACH PROVINCE. A SPECIAL POLICE COMMISSION IS WORKING ON THE NEW NATIONAL POLICE STAFFING AND BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 1975 AND A NEW POLICE CHIEF, WHO PROMISES TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD, HAS BEEN APPOINTED. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF THE NEW STAFFING PATTERN IS THE END OF APRIL AND, IF IMPLEMENTED AS PLANNED, THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH 24 OFFICERS AND 193 ENLISTED MEN FOR SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

6. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION - NO CHANGE FROM REFERENCED REPORTS.

7. TRAINING - PREPARATIONS FOR TRAINING NEW PERSONNEL EXPECTED TO BE ASSIGNED TO THE NARCOTICS DIVISION HAVE BEEN MADE AND COURSE MATERIALS ARE READY. AT PRESENT, 10 POLICEMEN AND 8 POLICE DOGS ARE ATTENDING A COURSE IN COLOMBIA IN COOPERATION WITH THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICE UNDER USAID SPONSORSHIP. 20 NATIONAL POLICE TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN GIVEN A 4 WEEK COURSE IN TELETYPE OPERATIONS PREPARATORY TO THE INSTALLATION OF NEW EQUIPMENT BEING PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. PARTICIPATION OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN NARCOTICS COURSES IN THE UNITED STATES HAS THUS FAR BEEN VETOED BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, WHO HAS OFFERED VARIOUS PRETEXTS FOR REFUSING

PERMISSION TO SELECTED INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE PROGRAMS.

8. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION - NO CHANGE
FROM REFERENCED REPORTS.

9. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES - MONTHLY
BILATERAL EMBASSY-GOE MEETINGS OF OFFICIALS CONCERNED
WITH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT CONTINUE AND REMAIN OF VALUE.
GOE INTEREST, AROUSED AT THESE MEETINGS, IN INCREASING
COOPERATION BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND POLICE ON NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT HAS RESULTED IN A DRAFT REGULATION OUTLINING
POSSIBLE FORMS OF ADDITIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE
TWO ENTITIES. GREATER AWARENESS OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

AS A PROBLEM OF IMPORTANCE TO ECUADOR HAS BEEN A
SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT OF THESE GATHERINGS. IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW ORGANIC LAW, AN INTERMINISTERIAL
COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CURRENT NARCOTICS LAWS AND REGULATIONS
WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING BETTER COOPERATION AND GREATER
COORDINATION IN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CREATED. THE U.S.
MISSION HAS BEEN INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE
DELIBERATIONS OF THESE GROUPS. GOE AND MISSION
OFFICIALS HAVE AGREED ON THE TEXT OF THE 1975 POLICE
NARCOTICS PROGRAM AGREEMENT BUT FAILURE OF THE DEPART-
MENT TO ALLOCATE THE FUNDS HAS PREVENTED IT BEING SIGNED.
THIS DELAY MAY BE INTERPRETED AS A LACK OF INTEREST IN
A PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE U.S. TO SERVE OUR NATIONAL
POLICIES. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THIS SHOULD OCCUR
AT A TIME WHEN THERE APPEARS TO BE GREATER INTEREST
ON THE PART OF THE GOE IN THE GENERAL NARCOTICS
PROBLEM AS ONE OF INTEREST TO ECUADOR AND NOT SOLELY
TO THE U.S.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, QUARTERLY REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO02643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750136-0822
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750438/aaaabiwt.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 QUITO 0720, 75 QUITO 6868, 75 OF OCTOBER 17, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUARTERLY (JANUARY-MARCH) NARCOTICS REPORT - ECUADOR
TAGS: SNAR, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006